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Univ. of Illinois,  
State Library School,  
Urbana.

Annual Report  
of  
Free Public Library  
Altamont, Illinois  
for  
year ending June 1st, 1912.

# Annual Report of Free Public Library

MAY 1, 1911 TO JUNE 1, 1912

## FINANCE ACCOUNT

Unexpended balance from preceeding year .....	\$ 25 00
Receipts—Amount received from tax levy (\$700.00, 2 per cent) .....	686 00
—Gifts .....	
—Special funds .....	
Total Receipts .....	\$711 00

## EXPENDITURES

Rent .....	\$ 91 00
Janitor service .....	
Salaries .....	385 00
Repairs and improvements .....	8 25
Furniture and fixtures .....	9 72
Printing .....	
Stationery and supplies .....	9 30
Postage and express .....	1 27
Books .....	104 59
Periodicals .....	
Blinding .....	
Insurance .....	9 40
Miscellaneous .....	19 17
Total Expenditures .....	\$637 70
Balance on hand .....	73 30

JENNIE SCHWERTDFEGER, Secretary.

## BOOK ACCOUNT

Number of volumes at beginning of the year .....	1305 volumes
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Books purchased .....	127
Books donated .....	259
Magazines bound .....	
Total additions .....	386
Net increase during the year .....	
Actual number of volumes in library at close of year .....	1690 volumes
<b>WITHDRAWALS</b>	
Books lost by borrower .....	1
Books condemned .....	
Books sold (2 ordered for patrons) .....	
Books missing .....	
Total Withdrawals .....	1
	385 volumes

## SPECIAL EXPENSE FUND (Collected from fines, etc.)

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Balance on hand May 1, 1911 .....	\$1 52	By librarian from cash receipts:	
Petty cash collected by librarian:		Postage .....	\$ 3 50
Fines on overdue books .....	21 14	Special cleaning and care of room .....	70
Damaged or lost books .....	85	Freight, express and drayage .....	4 62
Cards to non-residents .....	1 50	Slight repairs and binding material .....	2 51
Sale of old or duplicate books .....	3 00	Incidentals .....	7 45
		Telephone .....	5 50
Total .....	\$28 01	Total .....	\$24 31
		Balance on hand .....	3 70

## SUMMARY

(Compiled from monthly reports)

Total number of volumes .....	1691
Number of volumes added during the year .....	386
Visitors .....	12449
Total circulation during year .....	7636
Largest daily circulation, 60 volumes.	Smallest, 6 volumes
Average daily circulation .....	24 volumes
Class in which gain is largest .....	Class 900
Percentage of all children's books circulated approximately .....	40 per cent
Percentage of adult fiction circulated .....	45 per cent
Number of books rebound .....	250
Number of books repaired .....	800
Number of newspapers and periodicals currently received .....	22
Average number of borrowers each month .....	516
Number of cards held by country borrowers .....	3
Number of days open during the 13 months .....	322
Hours open each week .....	36

## BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- |                              |                    |                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. T. E. Hogan               | 4. Mrs. H. Stein   | 7. Charles Alwert   |
| 2. W. A. Albers              | 5. Fred Naumer     | 8. W. H. Harris     |
| 3. Miss Jennie Schwerdtfeger | 6. Mrs. G. C. Dial | 9. Charles Klitzing |

MRS. MAUEL JEWELL, Librarian.

Dated June 8, 1912

The above library items  
newspaper "The Altamont News"  
issues of January 23, 1913



## DOES THE LIBRARY PAY?

The Answer to This Question Is Found in the Following Sketch—What the Library Is Doing for the People of Altamont and Surrounding Communities—Its Work for the Year

The Altamont Free Public Library is supported by taxation and is free to all people living in Altamont. It was established as a public library, March 10, 1908, by subscription and was made a free public library in 1909.

In 1908 there were just 265 volumes and the library now has 1950 volumes, of which about 40 per cent are fiction.

Most of the class books are history, biography and reference but the library has a few volumes on the questions of the day. By means of the twenty-seven periodicals and newspapers the latest invention or the latest thought on any subject can generally be found. Many people visit the library, each month, over five hundred books being loaned on an average and the questions asked at the desk show a variety of wants. One will ask for the writings of some philosopher; another, the latest book on entertaining and so on down to picture books for children not yet able to read.

Often books are asked for that the library does not have, in which case it is the librarian's duty to try to get them or find out where and how to get them. The system in use is the one most generally used in public libraries.

Rules are few and simple,—the work of keeping records of books loaned is so simple that the public is not often kept waiting. Sometimes a question is asked and

answered over the telephone. The library has a German collection of about eighty volumes, the greater part being fiction.

On the juvenile shelves will be found wholesome books to suit all tastes, for the children are the library's best patrons. With the best books before them they are

learning the value of books—they are learning how good it is to know something of the best things men have thought and said and done in the world.

Through the public schools of our town the library is doing some of its best work,—it may supply a book to illustrate some lesson, loan a collection of books for special study, collect material for a debate or instruct a class in the use of reference books. The library also supplies most of the volumes of standard literature which are used by the pupils for supplementary reading and tends to make the children of Altamont good readers. Give children the ability to read well and the library, when they have left school, gives them the opportunity to continue their education through life. For the library is the college to many; and to others it is a means of increased earning power.

Books will be found here which will increase their efficiency—no matter in what line of work they are engaged.

In general, it may be said that those who seek information on practical subjects will find it at the library; those who seek learning and culture will find the writings of the master minds of the past ages. And those who are tired and worn out from their day's toil will find the lighter works of adventure and imagination, which will transport them from the worries

and troubles of every day life to a land of fancy and enchantment.

were published in the weekly  
of Altamont Illinois in the  
and January 30, 1913.

